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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,008	04/26/2001	Masahiko Yamanami	14573	8408

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EXAMINER

DI GRAZIO, JEANNE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/843,008	Applicant(s) YAMANAMI, MASAHIKO	
	Examiner Jeanne A. Di Grazio	Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2004.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 125460/2000 (April 26, 2000) is claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimura et al. (JP-08-314389).

Per claim 6: Sugimura teaches and discloses an information equipment assembly in which various liquid crystal display units can be interchangeably mounted by an easy method and at low cost (Purpose, Abstract).

Sugimura has, with reference to the figures, a predetermined panel-mounting case (5)(bottom case of Figure 2) for inserting a display panel (6) therein, a predetermined panel-edge cover (4) for covering edge portions of the display panel (6), at least two holding members disposed at different positions from each other (6b) and fastened to the inner main-face of the panel mounting case (13), with which the display panel (6) is fixedly held in the panel-mounting case (5), wherein edge portions of the display panel (6) are covered in the panel-mounting case (5) with the predetermined panel-edge cover (4), and whereby the display panel (6) is mounted in the predetermined common display panel housing (Abstract, entire patent).

Sugimura does not appear to explicitly call forth a “spacer” inserted between a back face of the display panel and an inner main-face of the panel-mounting case, such that the display panel is placed in the predetermined panel-mounting case through at least one first spacer.

Sugimura, does however, illustrate members (7) (Figure 4) that are integral with the display panel and these members (7) are fixed with bosses (13) formed on the inside bottom cover of the panel mounting case (5) (Figure 2).

The members (7) presumably aid in fixedly holding the display panel (6) to the panel mounting case (5) through the bosses (13). The Sugimura invention is drawn to information equipment in which various liquid crystal display units can be accommodated. The information equipment can tilt (open and close) and thus the members (7) and bosses (13) are necessary to fixedly hold the display panel (6) to the panel mounting case (5).

Sugimura is evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art of information equipment that accommodates various sized liquid crystal displays would have had the reason, suggestion, and motivation to include spacer means or members (7, 13) to fixedly support a display panel and panel mounting case to hold panel and cover in place while the equipment is opened and closed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of information equipment that accommodates various sized liquid crystal displays to incorporate spacers or members (7, 13) as functional equivalents of each other to fixedly support a display panel and panel mounting case when the device is opened and closed.

As to claim 7, the bosses may function as second spacers.

As to claim 8, various display panels may be accommodated in the Sugimura invention.

As to claim 9, the members (7) are used in conjunction with the bosses (13) to accommodate the various displays.

As to claim 10, the holding members (6b) are affixed to the panel mounting case by screws.

As to claims 1-5, the method steps of mounting a display panel selected from various kinds of display panels in a predetermined common display panel housing would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of information equipment at the time the invention was made in view of the structure as taught and disclosed by Sugimura.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on January 9, 2004 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609(B)(2)(i). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeanne A. Di Grazio whose telephone number is (571)272-2289. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim, can be reached on (571)272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jeanne Andrea Di Grazio

Robert Kim, SPE

Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2871


ROBERT H. KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800